

“Legends of the Steppe” told by children in traditional song and dance

“Bridge to Development” NGO in collaboration with bd’s Mongolian barbeque restaurant is organizing children’s song and dance performance, which is called “Legends of the Steppe” on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Great Mongol State.

The story of Mongolia is told in a delightful combination of music and dance, song, giant puppets and film, by fifteen talented young performers:

Queen Alan Qo’a sat her five fine sons in a row and to each she gave an arrow shaft, saying “Break it!” They broke the arrows easily and threw them aside. Then she took five arrows and bound them together. She gave them to each in turn saying “Break them!”. However hard they tried they could not. She told them “Alone, you can be broken by anyone. If you are of one mind, together, like bound arrow-shafts, you will never be vanquished.”

We met Ms. J.Gereltsetseg, General Manager, Nomadic House Co., Ltd, who is one of the initiators and organisers of the children’s performance clarified about it.

Q: How did you come up with the idea to organizing such a performance?

A: There are many concerts of traditional folk performances in Ulaanbaatar, but only performed by adult professional artists. Although Mongolian children and youth are very talented learning traditional song and dance from early age, they are not seen as performers. Also very few organizations make the effort to support and help them to develop their talents and introduce to the public. We want to present these talented children to the audience, both Mongolian and foreign, giving young artists an opportunity to develop their talents by performing during their summer holiday.

Q. Can you tell me some more about the performance?

A. The performance is called “Legends of the Steppes”. It is a kind of joyous dramatic presentation of Mongolian history through song, music and dance. Each song, dance or drama presents a different aspect of Mongolian culture, tradition and legends, some of which are almost forgotten. As this year is the 800th anniversary of the Great Mongolian State, we’ve included stories about Chinggis khan and how the Mongolian state was established. Although he is considered to the world as a warlike conqueror, we present him from different aspect of view as the leader who united many warring tribes into one Mongolia, who emphasized the importance of friendship and integration. The performance will also serve with soft drinks, but after the performance, the audience can continue with dinner and entertainment at the bd’s Mongolian barbeque downstairs.

Q. What you are going to do with the profit of the performances?

A. A part of the profits will go to the young artists and also will be contributed to the Mongolian Youth Development Foundation to help vulnerable children in Mongolia.

It sounds a wonderful and also benevolent venture. I look forward very much to seeing the show.

